Rakudai Kishi no Cavalry

Created by Soramichi

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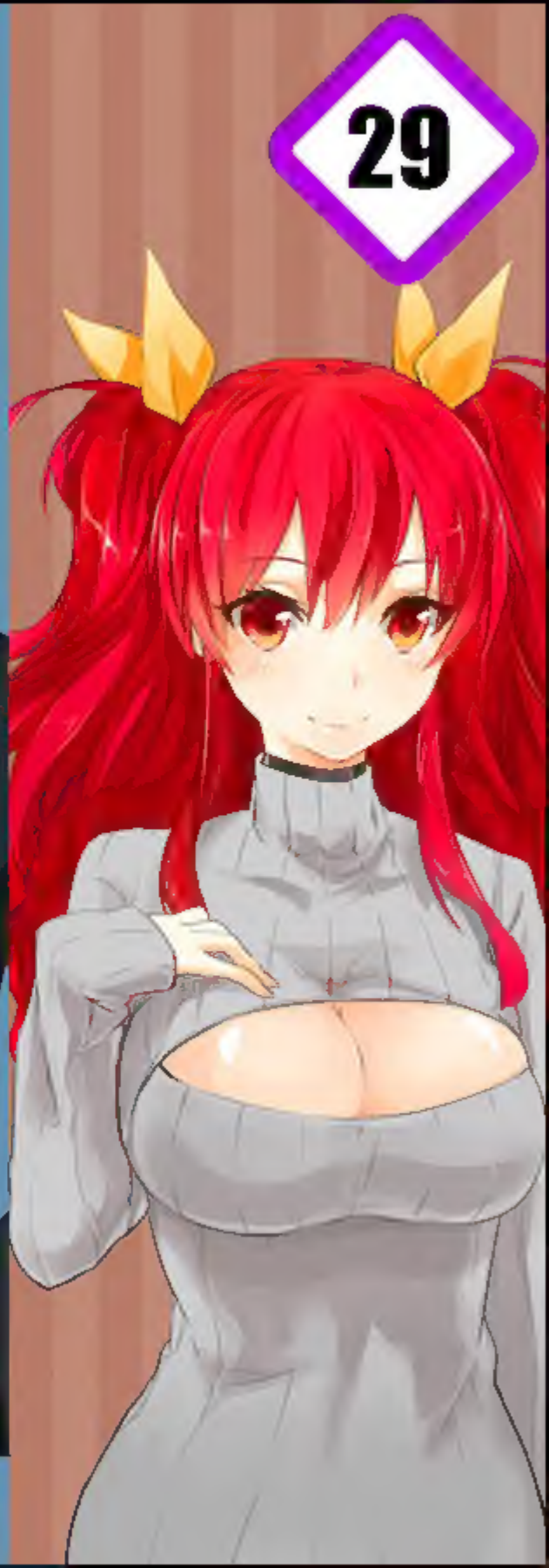

29

THE NEWEST TANKOUBON, VOLUME 7, IS SCHEDULED FOR SALE OCT. 13TH!

The pride and dignity carried on that back.

落第騎士の英雄譚
Rakudai Kishi no Eiyuutan

Chapter 29: Arranged Duel

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Character Design: Won

◆ IKKI, NOW DECISIVELY ESTRANGED FROM HIS FATHER ITSUKI...

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

.....

...AH.

OH...

WELL.

IT'S FINE. HE WON HIS EIGHTEENTH MATCH.

OREKI-SENSEI,

ONII-SAMA... HOW IS HE?

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT?

KUROGANE-KUN'S PHYSICAL CONDITION SEEMS POOR.

THE TRUTH IS...

ONII-SAMA'S... PHYSICAL CONDI-TION?

HIS COM-PLEXION IS BAD, AND HE'S CON-STANTLY COUGHING TOO...

.....

IT'S PROBABLY ...

SENSEI?

NO, NOTHING.

I HAVE TO GO SEE THE BOARD CHAIR-MAN. BYE FOR NOW.

SENSEI KNOWS ALL ABOUT ILL-NESSES, SO SHE MIGHT HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT IKKI'S SYMPTOMS.

OREKI-SENSEI WAS ABOUT TO SAY SOME-THING, WASN'T SHE?

PROBABLY... OR MAYBE SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM.

THEN... IT'S NOT A NORMAL CONDITION?

THOSE PEOPLE...

GIVEN FATHER, IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE...

!

ONII-SAMA...
BE SAFE...!

BUT...

THERE'S NOTHING
I CAN DO FROM
THE OUTSIDE...

...OH.
I FELL
ASLEEP
AGAIN.

HEY!
WHO
TOLD
YOU TO
LET YOUR
MIND
WANDER!?
YOU DARE
DISRESPECT
US TO THE
POINT OF
DOZING
DURING THIS
HEARING!?

COUGH

IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE THE INQUIRY BEGAN...

HOW MANY TIMES ARE THEY STILL GOING TO KEEP REPEATING THE SAME QUESTIONS?

COUGH

HMPH. FEIGNING ILLNESS WHEN THINGS GO POORLY FOR YOU.

A CHILD'S TACTIC.

NOW, LET'S CONTINUE.

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

REGARDING THE SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN YOU AND BOARD CHAIRMAN SHINGUUJI TO ALLOW YOUR GRADUATION—

YOU LITTLE WEAKLING!

DAMN YOU!

GET BACK ON YOUR FEET!

GU...H!

HOW WRETCHED . . .

IT WOULDN'T BE OUT OF CHARACTER AT ALL FOR THESE PEOPLE.

MY BODY'S MOST LIKELY THIS WAY BECAUSE OF POISON...

THE DECISIVE BLOW WAS HIS MEETING WITH OUR CLAN HEAD.

HE HE HE.

WE'VE BEEN SECRETLY FEEDING HIM DRUGS BUT IKKI-KUN WOULDN'T NORMALLY COLLAPSE FROM THAT

IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR HIS EMOTIONS TO BE SHAKEN.

THOUGH THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS FRAGILE, THAT WAS STILL A BETRAYAL OF FAITH.

AND ONCE HIS BALANCE WAS KNOCKED ASKEW, THE REST FOLLOWED.

IKKI-KUN HAS BECOME A MERE SHADOW OF HIMSELF.

WE'VE PUT HIM THROUGH QUITE SOME HARDSHIP, HAVEN'T WE?

HE HE HE. NOW, PLEASE DO FORGIVE HIM THAT MUCH.

BUT... THERE IS ONE WAY TO GET PAST TH S.

WEL., IT SEEMS DRAGG NG THE INQUIRY OUT ANY FURTHER WON'T DO ANYONE MUCH GOOD.

THOUGH WE'VE WORKED HARD TO ESTABLISH HOW WONDER-FUL A KNIGHT YOU ARE,

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TELL YOU?

YOU WOULD, YES?

I'VE THOUGHT OF AN EXCEL-LENT WAY TO PROVE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS.

IT WON'T BE ANYTHING EASY...

YOU ALREADY KNOW OF IT, DON'T YOU? THAT CUSTOM OF KNIGHTS WHO CUT OPEN THE PATHS TO THEIR OWN FORTUNES?

HE HE HE

WELL, IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.

... WHAT IS... THAT...

COUGH COUGH

SO... WHY DON'T YOU DO THE SAME?

SETTLE THE BICKERING OVER YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

BY WINNING THE FINAL SELECTION BATTLE MATCH TOMORROW.

IN OTHER WORDS,

... WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?

YOU MEAN... FIGHTING A DUEL... AGAINST SOMEONE REPRESENT-ING...

EXACTLY.

IF A DUEL IS CALLED, AND YOU SHOW YOUR POWER BY WINNING IT,

THEN NO ONE CAN ENTERTAIN ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOUR QUALIFICA-TION AS A KNIGHT.

IT'S AN UNWRITTEN RULE THAT CAN'T BE CHALLENGED.

FOR US KNIGHTS, THE OUTCOME DECIDED BY A DUEL IS ABSOLUTE.

THE SAME APPLIES TO THE LEAGUE.

SO YOU'RE SAYING... IF I WIN TOMORROW... YOU'LL LEAVE MY MATTER ALONE?

FRANKLY, IF YOU DEFEAT SUCH A LOW-LEVEL KNIGHT, IT WOULDN'T PROVE A THING ABOUT YOUR STRENGTH.

...BUT YOUR OPPONENT FOR TOMORROW HAPPENS TO BE A THIRD-YEAR E-RANK.

YES, YES!

OF COURSE I WILL.

FOR THIS DUEL, A SUITABLE ADVERSARY MUST BE PREPARED.

SO...

WHO WOULD THAT BE...?

WE, THE ETHICS COMMITTEE,

NOMINATE THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, "RAIKIRI" TOUKA TOUDOU!

...

TCH!

WHICH IS TO SAY...

THIS WHOLE AFFAIR AND ITS DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN COMMUNICATED TO HIS MAJESTY.

OH, BY THE WAY, WE'VE TOLD THIS AS WELL TO THE KING OF VERMILLION.

DO ACCEPT MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES.

HE HE HE.

HE'S BEEN IN CONTROL OF HOW ALL OF THIS WOULD PROGRESS.

FROM THE BEGINNING

REALLY ...

IT WAS ALL TO HAVE THIS PROMISE, TO FORCE ME INTO A SUDDEN DEATH DUEL

THE INQUIRY WAS AN EXCUSE TO ISOLATE ME FROM HAGUN.

AND FALL IN THE DUEL, I LL LOSE ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING.

IF I MAKE EVEN A SINGLE MISTAKE,

THERE, NEITHER TRUTH NOR JUSTICE MATTER

THE OUTCOME OF THE DUEL IS EVERYTH NG

HOW VICIOUS.

THE RISK IS HUGE. AND EVEN IF I WIN, ALL I'D GET IS THE FREEDOM I SHOULD ALREADY HAVE.

IKKI-KUN?

OF COURSE, A MAN WOULD FIGHT. ISN'T THAT RIGHT,

THERE'S NOWHERE FOR ME TO RUN.

.....

I UNDER...STAND. I'LL DO IT.

EVERYONE, YOU'VE ALL WITNESSED IT AS WELL, YES!?

OUR CURRENT ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED BY TOMORROW'S DUEL,

SETTLED BY ITS FINAL OUTCOME!

HEH

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

SPLENDID, SPLENDID! THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!

I DECLARE THIS INQUIRY COMPLETE!

VERY WELL.

AN ENEMY WHO'D BE DANGEROUS IF I'M AT MY BEST AND I HAVE TO CHALLENGE HER NOW?

THE OPPONENT IS RAIKIRI, WHO'S SAID TO BE INVINCIBLE WHEN CONFRONTED WHERE I'M STRONGEST IN CLOSE RANGE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

SHE'S SHOULDERING THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF SO MANY PEOPLE, MORE THAN I CAN EVEN IMAGINE.

TO WAGER... MY ENTIRE FUTURE...?

"THE WEIGHT SHE'S CARRYING IS DIFFERENT FROM YOURS."

NOT JUST THOSE OF THE CHILDREN FROM HER ORPHANAGE,

BUT THE ADMIRATION SHE'S EARNED AS A NATIONAL QUARTER-FINALIST

CAN I DEFEAT... SOMEONE WHO CAN BOAST OF THAT?

WITH MY SWORD, SO EMPTY OF WORTH THAT

MY OWN FATHER WOULDN'T HOLD ANY EXPECTATIONS FOR ME...

Student Council R
YEAH, I'M FINE.
I'M FULL 'A ENERGY.

TOMORROW'S MATCH IS THE LAST INTRA-SCHOOL BATTLE.
HUH? YOU'RE COMING TA CHEER FER ME?
Y-YA MADE A BANNER!?

YOU'RE ALL TOO HASTY!

...
OOH,

ANYWAYS, AFTER THE SELECTION BATTLE'S DONE, I'LL GO AN' SHOW MY FACE.

BEEP

Mother
Call ended
00.50 21

YOU TAKE CARE OF YER HEALTH TOO, MOTHER ...

BYE BYE.

SEE YA. THANKS FER THE VEGGIES.

SHE SAID THEY'LL GO AND WATCH THE FESTIVAL MATCHES

EVERYONE'S GETTING AHEAD OF THEMSELVES.

SO THE DIRECTOR AND THE KIDS ALREADY MADE A BANNER?

THAT'S BECALISE EVERYONE ALREADY EXPECTS YOU TO BE THERE.

YEAH...

RAIKIRI IS THEIR HEROINE.

FOR THE KIDS OF WAKABA HOUSE,

I KNOW THAT... BUT...

...TOMORROW'S DUEL, HUH?

...YES.

...NO MATTER WHAT KURO-GANE-KUN'S SITUATION MAY BE.

I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

ARE YOU GONNA ACCEPT BEING THE REPRESENTA-TIVE?

MADAM CHAIR-MAN SAID THE SAME. FOR ME, IT'S JUST MY FINAL SELECTION BATTLE MATCH.

NO.

.....

BUT YOU DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT, DO YOU?

KNOCK KNOCK

HUH? WHO WOULD THAT BE, THIS LATE?

PLEASE COME IN.

SOMEONE I CALLED HERE.

カツ

カツ

EXCUSE ME.

SHIZUKU -SAN.

GOOD EVENING,

BETTING HIS ENTIRE FUTURE.

KURO-GANE-KUN WILL FIGHT TOMOR-ROW...

YOU'VE HEARD THE DETAILS ABOUT TOMORROW'S DUEL FROM FROM MADAM CHAIRMAN.

STUDENT PRESIDENT, WILL YOU FIGHT?

EVEN WITH ONII-SAMA'S CONDITION LIKE THAT?

THOSE LOWLIFES ...!

THIS FIGHT ISN'T ONE I WANT.

BUT...

I'M THE STUDENT PRESIDENT, BUT I'M STILL ONLY A STUDENT.

I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU, SHIZUKU-SAN,

BECAUSE YOU'RE KUROGANE-KUN'S FAMILY

WILL YOU ASK KUROGANE-KUN TO NOT ENTER THE MATCH?

SHIZUKU-SAN,

I HEAR THAT IN THE WORST CASE, HE MIGHT HAVE PNEUMONIA OR MORE.

HIS BODY IS UNFIT FOR COMBAT.

KURO-GANE-KUN ISN'T WELL ENOUGH TO FIGHT.

...
WHAT?

...BUT EVEN THOUGH I'VE ONLY SPOKEN WITH HIM FOR A FEW DAYS, I'VE SEEN WHAT KIND OF KNIGHT HE IS.

I BELIEVE THAT HE'LL HAUL A BODY COVERED IN SCARS TO THE MATCH IF HE HAD TO,

JUST SO THAT HE CAN FIGHT ME IN EARNEST.

I, AS A KNIGHT, INTEND TO MEET HIM IN BATTLE WITH EQUAL SINCERITY.

AND IF HE CAME TO THE MATCH,

IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WOULD SURELY END IN DISASTER.

...!

NOTHING ABOUT WHAT SHE SAID IS EXAGGERATION.

SHE'S... SERIOUS.

SHE'S EVEN THINKING OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE'L.. END UP KILLING ONII-SAMA!

PLEASE, STOP KUROGANE-KUN.

ONLY YOU, WHO'S FAMILY, CAN DO THIS.

I...

AS ONII-SAMA'S FAMILY...

...TCH!

...
LET
ME
CONSIDER
IT...

CAN
I—
STOMACH
GOING TO THE
NATIONALS
LIKE THAT?

TOMOR-
ROW...
WHETHER
KUROGANE-
KUN ABSTAINS
FROM FIGHTING...
OR WE FIGHT
AND I WIN...

SURE, THE ADULTS ARE MAKING A RIDICULOUS MESS OF EVERYTHING,

BUT YOU JUST HAVE TO FIGHT THE WAY YOU CAN ACCEPT.

EITHER WAY, TOUKA, YOU'RE GONNA BE YOU.

すっ

EVEN OUR UNDERCLASSMAN, EVEN HE WOULD PROBABLY PREFER IT THAT WAY.

THE TOUKA WE LOVE IS LIKE THAT,

I SHOULD JUST DO WHAT I CAN.

YEAH, ...THANKS, UTA-KUN.

ぽふっ。

UMPH!

AND I'LL WIN. I'LL DEFINITELY WIN!

I'LL BE HIS OPPONENT WITH ALL MY POWER, AND ALL MY RESPECT.

IF HE DRAGS HIS BODY HERE AND FACES ME TOMORROW, I WON'T GO EASY ON HIM.

I'M NOT CONFUSED ANYMORE.

WIN...

—AND GO TO THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL WITH MY HEAD HIGH!

To be continued 9/1

WITH EACH OF THEM BEARING THEIR OWN CONVICTIONS, THE CURTAINS RISE ON THE FINAL PRELIM BATTLE-!